date and the Government received 9 letters concerning Kendriya Bhandar.

(b) Final replies have been sent to the Members of Parliament in 5 cases.

(c) The replies to the remaining 10 letters from the Members of Parliament which were either received recently or which require a detailed analysis will be sent at the earliest.

Shortage of LPG

149. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure sufficient supply of LPG;

(c) whether any study has been made to ascertain number of applicants waiting for LPG connection, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in the country, who are enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlog that may arise, are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas.

(c) and (d). The registration for LPG connections is an on-going process. As on 1.10.96 the number of persons on waiting list for LPG connections is 136.22 lakhs. A State-wise statement of wait-listed persons is annexed.

STATEMENT

Statewise Waiting List as on 1.10.96

States	Figure in Lakhs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	10.23
Arunachal Pradesh	0.17
Assam	1.70
Bihar	3.94
Goa	0.92
Gujarat	8.34
Haryana	4.96
Himachal Pradesh	0.98
Jammu and Kashmir	1.12
Karnataka	7.05
Kerala	6.56
Madhya Pradesh	6.96
Maharashtra	18.19
Manipur	0.06
Meghalaya	0.06
Mizoram	0.08
Nagaland	0.05
Orissa	1.96
Punjab	7.29
Rajasthan	7.26
Sikkim	0.01
Tamilnadu	14.43
Tripura	0.35
Uttar Pradesh	14.53
West Bengal	9.86
Union Territories	
Andaman and Nicobar	0.11
Chandigarh	0.91
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.02
Delhi	7.59
Daman and Diu	0.05
Lakshadweep	.00
Pondicherry	0.47

Oman Gas Project

150. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ministry of Finance had questioned the cost-effectiveness of the purchase of Oman Gas through under-water pipeline;

(b) whether before India came forward no one was ready to purchase the gas, which cost Oman Company only 90 cents/MMBTU; and

(c) whether the Joint Working Group recently formed is expected to study this aspect also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Apart from the Oman-India project, Oman is also setting up a project for the export of LNG.

(c) The Joint Working Group will examine ways of expediting the feasibility study and will also identify agencies to finance the project.